

**Federal Defenders  
OF NEW YORK, INC.**

Southern District  
52 Duane Street-10th Floor, New York, NY 10007  
Tel: (212) 417-8700 Fax: (212) 571-0392

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David E. Patton  
*Executive Director*

*Southern District of New York*  
Jennifer L. Brown  
*Attorney-in-Charge*

October 26, 2021

By ECF

The Honorable Paul G. Gardephe  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

**Re:    United States v. Donnell Russell  
          20 CR 538 (PGG)**

Dear Judge Gardephe:

With the consent of the Government, I write to request an adjournment of Mr. Russell's trial to the third quarter of 2022, with a preference for the last half of July 2022. I have a concentration of hearings and trials for in-custody clients in early 2022, including one trial set for February 1 for a client who is in-custody at the MDC. To ensure that I have adequate time to prepare Mr. Russell's defense, I request an adjournment to later in the year in 2022. As noted above, the Government does not oppose this request. Moreover, Mr. Russell prefers an adjournment of the January 18 trial date.

Mr. Russell is out of custody and lives between Chicago and California. Trial and trial preparation would require Mr. Russel's travel to the Southern District of New York which at this time poses COVID-safety concerns and complications for travel and courtroom entry. Ideally, the level of community transmission in both New York and Chicago will be significantly lower later in 2022 making travel and in-person preparation safer for all parties.

The Government requests that time be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), between January 18, 2022 and the next trial date. The defense consents to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/  
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Zawadi Baharanyi  
Assistant Federal Defender  
917-612-2753 (c)

cc:    AUSA Peter J. Davis.